

CLAIMS

- 1.- A method for reducing the visual impact of defects present in a matrix display (12) comprising a plurality of pixels (14), said pixels (14) comprising at least three sub-pixels (20, 21, 22), each sub-pixel intended for generating a sub-pixel colour which cannot be obtained by a linear combination of the sub-pixel colours of the other sub-pixels of the pixel, the method comprising:
- 5 providing a representation of a human vision system, characterising at least one defect sub-pixel present in the display, the at least one sub-pixel intended for generating a first sub-pixel colour, the defect sub-pixel being surrounded by a plurality of non-defective sub-pixels,
- 10 deriving drive signals for at least some of the plurality of non-defective sub-pixels in accordance with the representation of the human vision system and the characterising of the at least one defect sub-pixel, to thereby minimise an expected response of the human vision system to the defect sub-pixel, and
- 15 driving at least some of the plurality of non-defective sub-pixels with the derived drive signals,
- 20 wherein minimising the response of the human vision system to the defect sub-pixel comprises changing the light output value of at least one non-defective sub-pixel intended for generating another sub-pixel colour, said another sub-pixel colour differing from said first sub-pixel colour.
- 2.- A method according to claim 1, wherein minimising the response of the human vision system to the defect sub-pixel comprises introducing a light output deviation in at least one non-defective sub-pixel being part of the same pixel as said defect sub-pixel.
- 25 3.- A method according to claim 2, wherein said light output deviation is similar to a light output deviation caused by the defect sub-pixel.
- 30 4.- A method according to claim 2, wherein said light output deviation is such that a total light output of said pixel is substantially equal to a total light output of that pixel if it would not have any defect sub-pixels.

5. - A method according to any of the previous claims, wherein deriving drive signals for at least some of the plurality of non-defective sub-pixels furthermore is performed by incorporating a correction for at least one of a distance between said human vision system and said display, a viewing angle between said human vision system and said display and a presence of environmental stray light.
6. - A method according to any of the previous claims, wherein characterising at least one defect sub-pixel present in the display comprises storing characterisation data characterising the location and non-linear light output response of individual sub-pixels, the characterisation data representing light outputs of an individual sub-pixel as a function of its drive signals.
7. - A method according to any of the previous claims, wherein providing a representation of the human vision system comprises calculating an expected response of a human eye to a stimulus applied to a sub-pixel.
8. - A method according to claim 7, wherein for calculating the expected response of a human eye to a stimulus applied to a sub-pixel, use is made of any of a point spread function, a pupil function, a line spread function, an optical transfer function, a modulation transfer function or a phase transfer function of the eye.
9. - A method according to any of the previous claims, wherein when minimising the response of the human vision system to the defect sub-pixel, boundary conditions are taken into account.
10. - A system for reducing the visual impact of defects present in a matrix display comprising a plurality of pixels, said pixels comprising at least three sub-pixels, each sub-pixel intended for generating a sub-pixel colour which cannot be obtained by a linear combination of the sub-pixel colours of the other sub-pixels of the pixel, and intended to be looked at by a human vision system, first characterisation data for a human vision system being provided, the system comprising:
- a defect characterising device for generating second characterisation data for at least one defect sub-pixel present in the display, the defect sub-pixel intended for generating a first sub-pixel colour and being

surrounded by a plurality of non-defective sub-pixels,
a correction device for deriving drive signals for at least some of the
plurality of non-defective sub-pixels in accordance with the first
characterisation data and the second characterising data, to thereby
5 minimise an expected response of the human vision system to the defect
sub-pixel, and

means for driving at least some of the plurality of non-defective sub-pixels
with the derived drive signals,
wherein the correction device comprises means to change the light
10 output value of at least one non-defective sub-pixel intended for
generating another sub-pixel colour, said another sub-pixel colour
differing from said first sub-pixel colour.

11.- A system according to claim 10, wherein the correction device comprises
means for introducing a light output deviation in at least one non-
15 defective sub-pixel being part of the same pixel as said defect sub-pixel.

12.- A method according to claim 11, wherein said light output deviation is
similar to a light output deviation caused by the defect sub-pixel.

13.- A method according to claim 11, wherein said light output deviation is
such that a total light output of said pixel is substantially equal to a total
20 light output of a pixel if it would not have any defect sub-pixels.

14.- A system according to any of claims 10 to 13, wherein the correction
device for deriving driving signals is adapted for deriving driving signals
incorporating a correction for at least one of a distance between said
human vision system and said display, a viewing angle between said
25 human vision system and said display and a presence of environmental
stray light.

15.- A system according to any of claims 10 to 14, wherein the defect sub-
pixel characterising device comprises an image capturing device for
generating an image of the sub-pixels of the display.

30 16.- A system according to any of claims 10 to 15, wherein the defect sub-
pixel characterising device comprises a sub-pixel location identifying
device for identifying the actual location of individual sub-pixels of the
display.

- 17.- A system according to any of claims 10 to 16, wherein for providing the first characterisation data, a vision characterising device having calculating means for calculating the response of a human eye to a stimulus applied to a sub-pixel is provided.
- 5 18.- A matrix display device for displaying an image intended to be looked at by a human vision system, the matrix display device comprising:
a plurality of pixels, said pixels comprising at least three sub-pixels, each sub-pixel intended for generating a sub-pixel colour which cannot be obtained by a linear combination of the sub-pixel colours of the other sub-pixels of the pixel,
10 a first memory for storing first characterisation data for a human vision system,
a second memory for storing second characterisation data for at least one defect sub-pixel present in the display device, the defect sub-pixel being intended for generating a first sub-pixel colour,
15 a modulation device for modulating, in accordance with the first characterisation data and the second characterisation data, drive signals for non-defective sub-pixels surrounding a defect sub-pixel so as to reduce the visual impact of the defect sub-pixel present in the matrix display device, wherein modulating drive signals comprises changing the light output value of at least one non-defective sub-pixel intended for generating another sub-pixel colour, said another sub-pixel colour differing from said first sub-pixel colour.
- 20 19.- A matrix display device according to claim 18, wherein the first and the second memory are physically a same memory device.
- 25 20.- A control unit for use with a system for reducing the visual impact of defects present in a matrix display comprising a plurality of pixels, said pixels comprising at least three sub-pixels, each sub-pixel intended for generating a sub-pixel colour which cannot be obtained by a linear combination of the sub-pixel colours of the other sub-pixels of the pixel, and intended to be looked at by a human vision system, the control unit comprising:
30 a first memory for storing first characterisation data for a human vision

system,

a second memory for storing second characterisation data for at least one defect sub-pixel present in the display, the defect sub-pixel intended for generating a first sub-pixel colour and

5 modulating means for modulating, in accordance with the first characterisation data and the second characterisation data, drive signals for non-defective sub-pixels surrounding the defect sub-pixel so as to reduce the visual impact of the defect sub-pixel, wherein modulating drive signals comprises changing the light output value of at least one non-
10 defective sub-pixel intended for generating another sub-pixel colour, said another sub-pixel colour differing from said first sub-pixel colour.